

Message Text

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43

ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 903

USIA WASHDC

INFO AMCONGEN ZAGREB UNN

UNCLAS BELGRADE 5177

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN YO

SUBJECT: BELGRADE ASTRONAUTICAL EXHIBITION

SEPTEMBER 6-14, 1975

1. WE HAVE BEEN ADVISED BY DIRECTOR, BELGRADE
FIR AND PRESIDENT, ASSOCIATION OF ASTRONAUTICAL AND
ROCKET ORGANIZATIONS OF YUGOSLAVIA, THAT THEIR
ORGANIZATIONS CO-SPONSORING THIRD INTERNATIONAL ASTRONAUTICAL
EXHIBITION AT BELGRADE FAIRGROUNDS, SEPTEMBER 6-14,
1975. SPONSORS CITE PAST U.S. PARTICIPATION PREVIOUS
EXHIBITIONS THIS FIELD AND EXTEND INVITATION FOR U.S.
PARTICIPATION 1975 SHOW.

2. SPONSORS POINT TO FACT THAT SHOW WILL BE HELD
SHORTLY AFTER JOINT US-SOVIET SPACE FLIGHT AND ADVISE THAT THEY
INTEND INVITE ONE U.S. AND ONE SOVIET ASTRONAUT TO
PARTICIPATE IN EXHIBITION. THEY STATE THAT ACADEMY
OF SCIENCES OF USSR HAS ALREADY ADVISED THEM OF PREP-
ARATORY WORK BEING CARRIED OUT FOR SOVIET
PARTICIPATION IN EXHIBITION. THEY OFFER FREE STORAGE
SPACE AT BELGRADE FAIRGROUNDS FOR THOSE PARTICIPATING IN PARIS
INTERNATIONAL AIR SHOW (JUNE 1975) WHO WISH AVOID TRANS-
PORT COSTS INVOLVED IN SENDING THEIR EXHIBITS BACK TO
HOME COUNTRY AND FROM THERE TO BELGRADE, AND
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SUGGEST POSSIBLITY OF SYMPOSIUM OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL

MEETING ON TOPIC OF SPIN-OFFS FROM SPACE PROGRAMS
USEFUL FOR CIVILIAN PURPOSES.

3. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT EXHIBITION OFFERS EXCELLENT
OPPORTUNITY FOR US EXHIBITION IN FIELD IN WHICH WE
HAVE SUBSTANTIAL LEAD OVER REST OF WORLD, NOTABLY
SOVIETS. FROM EVERY POINT OF VIEW, STARTING FROM
OPENESS OF U.S. PROGRAM AND ENDING WITH ITS PRACTICAL
ACHIEVEMENTS, WE THINK THAT WE HAVE THEME AND
ADVANTAGES ON WHICH TO CAPITALIZE. THEREFORE,
EMBASSY STRONGLY RECOMMENDS U.S. PARTICIPATION
IN SUBJECT EXHIBITION.

4. USIS BELGRADE NOTIFIED AREA OFFICERS THROUGH DEST
OFFICER COONROD OF YUGOSLAV INTEREST IN EXHIBITION.
COONROD LETTER OF SEPTMEBER 24, 1974, TO POST
INDICATES IEE INTEREST AND PROMISES FOLLOW-UP
DISCUSSION ON SUBJECT WITH DAVIS, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR/
EXHIBITS.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: JOINT STATE-USIS REPLY TO OUR
RECOMMENDATION.
TOON

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NNN

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